TOKYOPOP

# DRAMACON

Svetlana Chmakova

Aruinas Manga

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*Created by*
*Svetlana Chmakova*

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My first anime convention... did not start out smooth.
You know how sometimes you have a bad day?
Don't study and you get a test?
Spill juice all over yourself in front of the boy you like?
That used to be my definition of a bad day...
....until I got into this car.
With this psycho at the wheel.
HA HA HA HA
...AND I WENT: "OH YEAH? WELL, HOW ABOUT I TAKE THAT RENT AND SHOVE IT UP
STOP TALKING!
THAT WAS A RED LIGHT JUST NOW!!! AND CAN WE AT LEAST STOP AND PEEL THAT RACCOON OFF THE BUMPER?
SILENCE, MORTAL! AND THE RACCOON IS JUST RESTING-- LET THE TYKE BE.

To go to this convention.
!
I..I DIDN'T JUST SEE A GUY IN A SCHOOLGIRL OUTFIT.
YATTACON
CULTURE SHOCK
I-IT'S JUST THE LIGHTS IN HERE, Y-YEAH..
..HE COULDVE AT LEAST BOTHERED TO SHAVE HIS LEGS.
With this guy.
GET SOME GLASSES AND CHECK THE FRIGGING LIST AGAIN!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, YOU DON'T HAVE OUR TABLE?!
DEREK, STOP IT!
UMMM, PLEASE EXCUSE HIM--HE ATE SOMETHING BAD.
HIS MANNERS, MAYBE?
STAFF

And this girl.
HSS SSS!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU DON'T HAVE OUR HOTEL ROOM?!!
I SAID, OPAL MAYDEW-- CHECK FOR IT AGAIN!
YOU BETTER HAVE IT BY THE TIME WE GET THERE, OR I'M GOING TO RIP YOU A NEW ONE!
SHE'D DO IT, TOO...
NOOO, DON'T YELL AT THEM...
WE'RE SLEEPING ON THE STREET, AREN'T WE.
Let's just say... It's been a bad day.
WIMP!
SUPER CON TEAM!
TABLE- SECURED!
CARMOBILE- PARKED!
FLEX!
HOTEL ROOM- CHECK, MEW!
NOOOO, LET ME GOOOOo..
CAN WE GO HOME YET? PLEASE...?
OH NO, YOU DON'T! TIME TO SET UP THE TABLE!
Actually, scratch the polite act.
It was a pretty damn miserable day.

And guess what? It didn't get better.
♥!
WARY
WARY
WARY
OHH, YOUR ART IS SOOOO GOOD!
TALENTED AND HANDSOME, TEE HEE.
OH, STOP IT.
Yep, that's my boyfriend she's flirting with.
AND I MUST SAY-- THAT COSTUME LOOKS SMASHING ON YOU.
MAKE IT YOURSELF?
YES, ACTUALLY.
No, your eyes do not fool you.
WELL, BEAUTIFUL AND TALENTED RIGHT BACK ATCHA, THEN!
TEE HEE
He really is flirting back.
Right in front of me.
Must... Not... Make... A scene....

YOU SHOULD COSPLAY, TOO. I BET YOU GOT A NICE CHEST TO SHOW OFF UNDER THAT SHIRT.
WELL, NOT BRAGGING, BUT... YEAH, HA HA.
Trying hard to not make a scene.
SO WHO'S THE QUIET LADY HERE, YOUR SISTER?
YEAH, UH... WELL, NO, THAT'S MY WRITER. ER... GIRLFRIEND...
Holding on to last shred of sanity now.
REALLY? WELL, THAT'S TOO BAD.
SEE YOU AROUND, HOT STUFF!
?!
BITCH!
AHH, I LOVE THIS CON.
EEEP?

IT'S JUST PART OF THE SALES PITCH!
I DIDN'T SEE HER BUY ANYTHING!
IF THE STUPID GIRLFRIEND WASN'T HERE, MAYBE!
SHE WOULD'VE!
UM, EXCUSE ME...
MAY I LOOK AT THIS?
YOU BET, BEAUTIFUL!
. . . . .
HEY, WAIT!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?!
TO GET SOME AIR WITH NO JERK IN IT!!

WAIT, CHRISS!
DID I SAY SOMETHING WRONG?
.....
OH, NO NO NO.
WE WERE JUST... REHEARSING A SCENE...
...FROM THE SCHOOL PLAY.
PUSH
STUPID...
STUPID JERK!!
SHOVE
STUPID CON!!
YAMMER
NNNG... STOP... PUSHING...

BUMP
HEY, WATCH IT.
OUCH...
...
ARE YOU OKAY?
...OH.

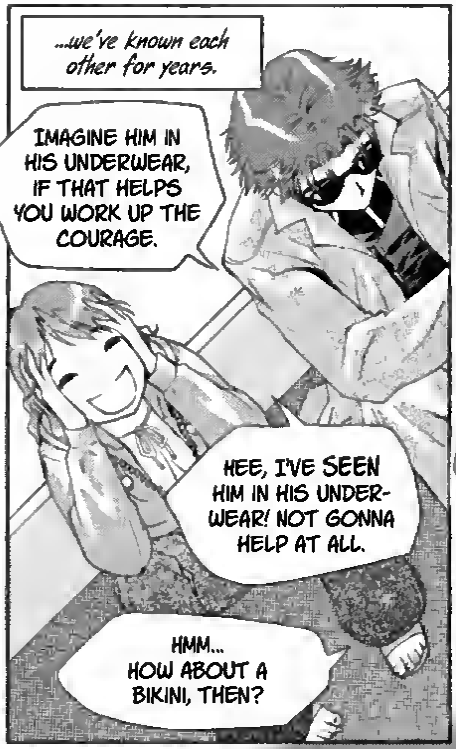
I still don't know why I did it...
Something about him made it okay...
This guy I've never even met before...
For me to just stand there, crying like a five-year old.
How did I know..
COME ON.
GET YOU A DRINK.
...that he wouldn't push me away?

THANK YOU.
...SORRY I BROKE DOWN LIKE THAT.
IT'S BEEN... A LONG DAY.
YOUR FIRST CON?
Y-YEAH. HOW DID YOU KNOW?
NO OFFENSE, BUT YOU'VE GOT NOOB WRITTEN ALL OVER YOU.
TRIES TO NOT TAKE OFFENSE.
I-I SEE...
n00b
I GATHER YOU'VE BEEN TO ONE BEFORE?
A FEW. SO WHY WERE YOU CRYING?
He's really...forward.
UMMM...
UMMM?

ARTIST
WRITER
LOVE CHILD
OUR FIRST COMIC, YAY!
BIG SCARY CON
GONNA EEAT YEEW!
NOOOOO
INSANE ROOMIES
STOOPID FLIRTY COSPLAYER
MISSING-LINK BOYFRIEND
AND LATELY HE'S ALWAYS LIKE THAT!
I MEAN, IS IT ME? AM I POSSESSIVE OR SOME-THING?!
EEEK!
...?
OHHHH, YOU'D BETTER NOT BE ASLEEP...
IF HE LOVES YOU...
...HE SHOULDN'T DO THINGS THAT HURT YOU.

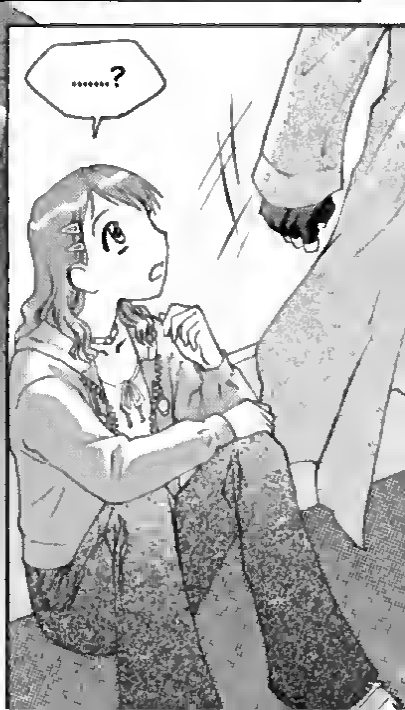
!
SO SIMPLE...
WHAT ELSE?!
BE FIRMER ABOUT WHAT YOU WANT AND WHAT YOU DON'T.
OR PEOPLE WILL WALK ALL OVER AND MANIPULATE YOU.
...NI-PU-LATE ME.
SCRIBBLE SCRIBBLE
GOT IT!
YOU'RE WRITING IT DOWN...?
YOU KIDDING?! THIS STUFF'S GOLD! JUST WHAT I NEED TO TELL THAT PRICK OFF!
...WAIT.
WHAT IF...
HE THINKS I'M BEING CLINGY.. WHAT IF HE...
B-BREAKS UP...
DUMPED
AND THAT'S A LOSS...HOW?

UM... WELL...
I'D RATHER WORK IT OUT.
I MEAN, I LOVE HIM, AND HE LOVES ME... (I THINK.)
SIGH... DON'T TELL ME HE WAS YOUR FIRST.
HE CAN READ MINDS!!
!!
OF C-COURSE NOT!!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!
LOOKING FOR A ROCK TO CRAWL UNDER.
I'LL TAKE THAT AS A "HELL, YEAH." DON'T WORRY-- I WON'T TELL ANYONE.
THEN HOW ABOUT YOU WIPE THAT GRIN OFF YOUR FACE, TOO?!
SMACK
Wow, it's like...
HEH HEH


...we've known each other for years.
IMAGINE HIM IN HIS UNDERWEAR, IF THAT HELPS YOU WORK UP THE COURAGE.
HEE, I'VE SEEN HIM IN HIS UNDER-WEAR! NOT GONNA HELP AT ALL.
HMM... HOW ABOUT A BIKINI, THEN?

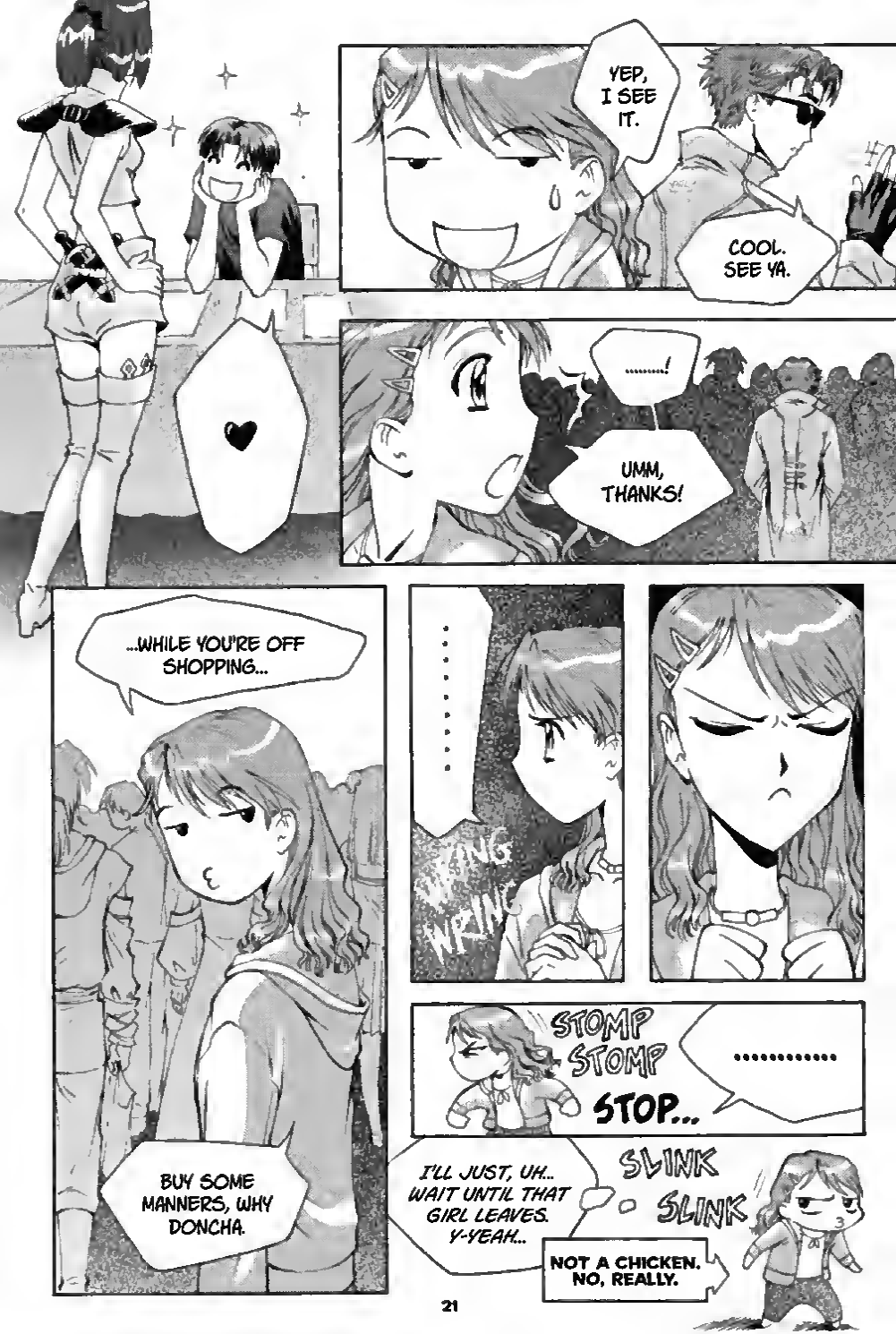
BWAH HA HA
OKAY, NOW YOU JUST WANT TO SCAR ME FOR LIFE.
CENSORED
CENSORED
CHILDREN, AVERT THINE EYES! WAY TOO HAIRY FOR A BIKINI.

HEE.
SAY, HOW COME YOU'RE WEARING YOUR SHADES INSIDE?
ISN'T IT HARDER TO SEE THINGS?


.....?

COME ON.
HUH?
10 BUCKS SAYS YOU FORGOT YOUR MAP AT THE TABLE AND NEED SOMEONE TO TAKE YOU BACK.
LOSER
HE'S RIGHT!
TH-THANKS...
KEEP UP, IT'S EASY TO GET SEPARATED IN THE CROWDS.
This guy I've never even met before...
NO, I'M LATE AS IT IS.
OKAY, BUT COULD YOU MAYBE SLOW DOWN?
...just managed to get me to tell him things I haven't shared with anyone.

.....
Derek's hand...
...never felt this warm.
SHOULD I BE WORRIED?
BRR, CHILLS ALL OF A SUDDEN.
THAT'S THE ARTIST ALLEY.
SEE YOUR TABLE?


YEP, I SEE IT.
COOL. SEE YA.
.....!
UMM, THANKS!
...WHILE YOU'RE OFF SHOPPING...
BUY SOME MANNERS, WHY DONCHA.
.....
STOMP STOMP STOP...
.....
I'LL JUST, UH.. WAIT UNTIL THAT GIRL LEAVES. Y-YEAH..
SLINK SLINK
NOT A CHICKEN. NO, REALLY.

BYEEE!
WE NEED TO TALK.
SLAM
YEAH.
WE DO.
OVER THERE.
MIND IF I GO FIRST?
.....?
N-NO NO, GO AHEAD.
WHAT THE HELL IS YOUR PROBLEM?!

WH-WHAT...?
I LOOK AT ANYONE BUT YOU, AND YOU THROW A HISSY FIT!!
I-I...
SHOULD I MAYBE GLUE MYSELF TO YOU AT THE HIP AND TALK TO NO ONE ELSE FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE?!!
NO, NO, IT'S NOT WHAT I...
IT'S JUST THAT...
WHEN YOU FLIRT... YOU LOOK LIKE YOU MEAN IT.
WELL I DON'T, OKAY?!
I AM YOUR BOYFRIEND, AREN'T I?
LAST TIME I CHECKED, ANYWAY.
YOU ARE, YOU ARE!
THEN WHY DON'T YOU TRUST ME?!
OR IS INDEPENDENCE TOO MUCH FOR YOU TO HANDLE?! I'M TRYING TO RESPECT YOUR SPACE, HERE. HOW ABOUT YOU RETURN THE COURTESY?!

.....
SIGH
I AM SORRY, DEREK...
I DIDN'T THINK OF IT THAT WAY.
HMPF
.....
IT'S OKAY.
LET'S NOT FIGHT ABOUT THIS ANYMORE.
*SNIFFLE*
YOU GONNA BE OKAY?
YEAH. SORRY.

WANT ME TO GET YOU A DRINK OR SOMETHING?
NO, NO-- I'M FINE. THANKS.
COOL.
SEE YA
WATCH THE TABLE, THEN--I'M OFF TO THE PANEL.
WHAT PANEL??
YOU'RE LEAVING ME HERE ALONE??
DO YOU LISTEN TO ME AT ALL?
I TOLD YOU-- LIDA ZEFF IS RUNNING A DRAWING PANEL I WANT TO GO TO.
AND YOU'LL BE FINE BY YOURSELF--SELLING PICTURES IS NOT ROCKET SCIENCE! SO QUIT BEING A WIMP ALREADY.
H-HANG ON!
...LIDA ZEFF ?!

YOU KNOW– LIDA ZEFF? THE MANGA ARTIST THAT, LIKE, ROCKS EVERY-THING?
THE FIRST NORTH AMERICAN CREATOR TO SIGN ON WITH MANGAPOP?
HE NEVER TOLD ME...
WAIT, I WANT TO GO, TOO!
SHE HAS A BILLION BOOKS OUT AND YOU OWN THEM ALL? DON'T TELL ME YOU FORGOT SHE'S HERE!
SOMEONE HAS TO WATCH THE TABLE, BABE--YOU SHOULD'VE SAID BEFORE!
SEE YOU IN AN HOUR!
It's official...

Worst day ever.
Bar NONE.
.....
ACK!
!!!
WAY TO TELL THE PRICK OFF.
HOWDY, NEIGHBOR.

He's HERE ?!
SHE NEEDS YOU AT THE BOOTH. I'LL TAKE OVER HERE.
OKEY-DOKEY!
WE STILL PACKING UP AT 8?
YEAH. SEE YOU THEN.
BU BUMP
HE'S IN THE ARTIST ALLEY, TOO!
Right...
...beside...
...me!
I can't handle much more of this.
HERE.

LIDA'S RUNNING ANOTHER PANEL TOMORROW, FOR WRITERS.
OHHH!
THERE IS A PROGRAM, I SEE... NO ONE TOLD ME THERE WAS ONE.
On the other hand...
THANK YOU.
...maybe this won't be so bad.
YOU'RE WELCOME. GROW A BACKBONE BY TOMORROW, AND YOU MIGHT EVEN GET TO ATTEND.
I take it back!! He's an asshole!!
OH YEAH? HOW ABOUT I JUST BORROW SOME OF YOUR NERVE INSTEAD?!

WARY
WARY city

IT'S A MYSTERY STORY, ABOUT A DETECTIVE...
KIND OF LIKE X-FILES. YOU KNOW, THE TV SHOW?
OH, IT'S GOT ALIENS?
ERR, NO...
BUT IT HAS GHOSTS!
HOW IS IT LIKE X-FILES, THEN?
UMM, HOW DO I EXPLAIN...
NEEDS MORE BISHI.
...IT'S THE SAME TYPE...
.....
OHHH, SO CUTE!!

GACK!! AGAIN ?!!
He keeps stealing my customers!!
Whoever comes by our table...
...only stays until they see the cute hats.
Or if they go there first, they don't even look at our stuff!
And the worst thing is...
...I WANT ONE TOOOO...
HEE
HEE
YAY!
DEAR LORD...
HELP ME WEATHER THIS INJUSTICE.
(STRIKE HIM WITH A LIGHTNING BOLT OR SOMETHING.)
TAKE OUR MONEY!!!
YAY!
Dear Satan...

EEEK!
SLAM!
THAT WAS FAST!
WE'RE LEAVING.
NOW? BUT IT'S NOT EVEN...
YEAH, NOW.
I'M STARVING, ANYWAY. BRETT SAID HE'S BUYING US BURGERS.
YOU KNOW HOW THEY ALWAYS SAY THAT LIDA IS SO NICE AND SUCH A GREAT PERSON?
YEAH ...
SHE IS NOT.
SHE'S A STUCK-UP BITCH.
DEREK, DID SOMETHING HAPPEN AT THE PANEL?

.....
UM...D-DID YOU SHOW HER OUR COMIC?
:SNORT: YEAH.
SHE SAID IT SUCKS. THAT WE SHOULD GO BACK TO SCHOOL.
BUT WE ARE IN SCHOOL...
SLAM
DUH!

...
STOP
BE NICE, BE NICE, BE NICE...
UM...
SEE YOU TOMORROW.
YOU SURE YOUR OWNER WILL LET YOU?
BRRISTLE
KINDLY KISS OFF AND DIE.
...
SMOOTH ONE, MATT.

NO WAY!!
SHE SAID THAT?!! SHE SAID YOUR COMIC SUCKS??!!
NOD NOD
SAID WE SHOULD GO BACK TO SCHOOL.
WHAT A BITCH!
TELL IT, YO.
THANK YOU...
DON'T LISTEN TO HER, GUYS.
DEREK'S A ROCKING ARTIST, AND YOUR WRITING'S SOME OF THE BEST SHIT I EVER READ, CHRISS.

THAT BEING SAID, YOU SHOULD PUT SOME SEX IN THERE.
I CONCUR!
N-NO, I SHOULDN'T!
HEY, I'D TOTALLY DRAW THAT!
TRUST ME— DO IT, AND THE BOOK'LL FLY OFF THE TABLE!
CAN BARELY SAY 'SEX' IN PUBLIC, FORGET WRITING ABOUT IT.
I-IT'S NOT THAT KIND OF STORY!
HO! SPEAKING OF STORIES!
DO YA GOT ONE, BABY? TELL, TELL!
HOLD ON TO YOUR MEAT, LADIES AND GENT--THIS ONE'S JUICY...
GULP
THIS... CAN'T BE GOOD.

CRIMINOLOGY STUDENT.
ONCE UPON A TIME, NOT SO LONG AGO...
...THERE LIVED A HAPPY FARMER COUPLE.
(IGNORE THE BLANK STARES... THEY'RE JUST PLAYING YA.)
EVERY SATURDAY, THE HAPPY COUPLE SOLD MEAT AT THE LOCAL FARMERS' MARKET.
CHOP
GRRIND
ONE DAY, THOUGH, ONLY THE LADY SHOWED UP!
THEY COULDN'T FIGURE OUT WHAT HAPPENED TO THE HUSBAND...
...UNTIL PEOPLE STARTED COMING BACK...

...SAYING THE LAST MEAT BATCH TASTED EXTRA GOOD.
THEY CAME BACK FOR MORE?!
EEEWW!
MUNCH
MUNCH
MUNCH
!!!
FREAKS! I'M SURROUNDED BY FREAKS!!
NOT GONNA FINISH THAT?
TAKE IT.
SO, UM...
WHAT'S THE PLAN FOR THE NIGHT?

HEE HEE.
MMMMM, TENTACLES...
WIGGLE
WIGGLE
HUH?
HEY, LITTLE GIRL..
HAVE YOU SEEN MY...
WIGGLE
WIGGLE
TENTACLES?
QUIT FREAKING ME OUT!!
HA HA! SORRY, CHRISS-- YOU'RE JUST TOO MUCH FUN TO TEASE.
THE PLAN IS TO GO AND SEE SOME HENTAI IN ONE OF THE SHOWROOMS.